

## ***Appendix H***

---

### *Cooperating Agency List, Handouts, and Meeting Presentation*



## Cooperating Agencies Invitation List

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Status</b>
Grady McNure	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	No Response
Eloisa Hopper	Nellis Air Force Base	Accepted
Richard M. Birger	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex	Accepted
Ron Gregory,	Principal Environmental Planner Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning	Accepted
Chris Robinson	Director Air Quality Management	No Response
Gale Wm. Fraser, III	General Manager Regional Flood Control District	Accepted
John Rinaldi	Property Manager City of Henderson	Accepted
Colleen Cripps	Chief Bureau of Air Quality Planning	No Response
Margo Wheeler	Las Vegas City Planner City of Las Vegas	Accepted
Misty Haehn	City of North Las Vegas	Accepted



U.S. Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Las Vegas Field Office



**Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary  
Environmental Impact Statement**

---

**Legislation and Project Overview**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Vegas Field Office, is currently in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary, located in Clark County, Nevada. The disposal boundary was created by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) of 1998 (PL 105-263) and amended with Title IV of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Clark County Lands Act) (PL 107-282).

The SNPLMA directs the BLM to sell public land within a specific boundary around Las Vegas, Nevada. Revenue from the land sales fund various programs in the State of Nevada including public education; Southern Nevada Water Authority projects; acquisition and conservation management of environmentally sensitive land; and development of federal, state, and local recreation and natural areas. Other provisions in the SNPLMA dictate land sale and acquisition procedures, direct the BLM to convey title to land in the McCarran Airport noise zone to Clark County, and provide for the sale of land for affordable housing.

The Clark County Lands Act potentially adds 22,000 acres of land for sale by the BLM to the highest bidder at public auction. Shortly after approval of the Clark County Lands Act, the BLM experienced a rapid increase in the requests for public land disposal. This created an immediate need to augment the impact analysis, especially the cumulative impact analysis contained in the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan, signed October 5, 1998. BLM must study the additional 22,000 acres for potential impacts prior to any sale of land.

The BLM is identifying available lands in the Las Vegas Valley that are appropriate for auction and preparing an EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from the sale and potential future development of these lands. The project area consists of lands currently identified for disposal within the Las Vegas Valley, including the Las Vegas Valley disposal area, the Valley West Disposal area, and other legislatively authorized disposal areas.

The EIS will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and BLM management policies. A number of state and local regulatory agencies have cooperating agency status towards the completion of this major study. The schedule to complete the EIS is aggressive in order to meet the November 2004 auction date.



U.S. Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Las Vegas Field Office



**Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary  
Environmental Impact Statement**

---

**Special Status Biological Resources**

**Mojave desert tortoise.** On April 2, 1990 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the Mojave population of the desert tortoise as threatened because of significant population decline and habitat loss, thereby bringing it under full protection of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Habitat for the Mojave population of the desert tortoise occurs throughout Clark County at elevations generally below 5,000 feet. The desert tortoise is a slow moving reptile that ranges in size from 2 to 15 inches long and can live up to 100 years. Threats to the desert tortoise include loss or degradation of habitat from land development, grazing, predation, fire, illegal collection, injury and mortality on roadways and from off-highway vehicle activities, and contraction of an often-fatal upper respiratory tract disease.



The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion for potential impacts to the desert tortoise that may result from activities identified in the 1998 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan. The USFWS has also issued a Biological Opinion associated with the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for potential impacts to the desert tortoise that may result from activities on private land.

**Las Vegas bearpoppy.** The Las Vegas bearpoppy is a federal species of concern, BLM sensitive plant species, and Nevada state-protected species that occurs in Clark County at elevations ranging from 1,310 to 2,760 feet. It is often found in highly gypsiferous soils on barren, gravelly desert flats, hummocks, and slopes. The Las Vegas bearpoppy is a perennial that produces several flower stalks bearing yellow flowers in April and May.

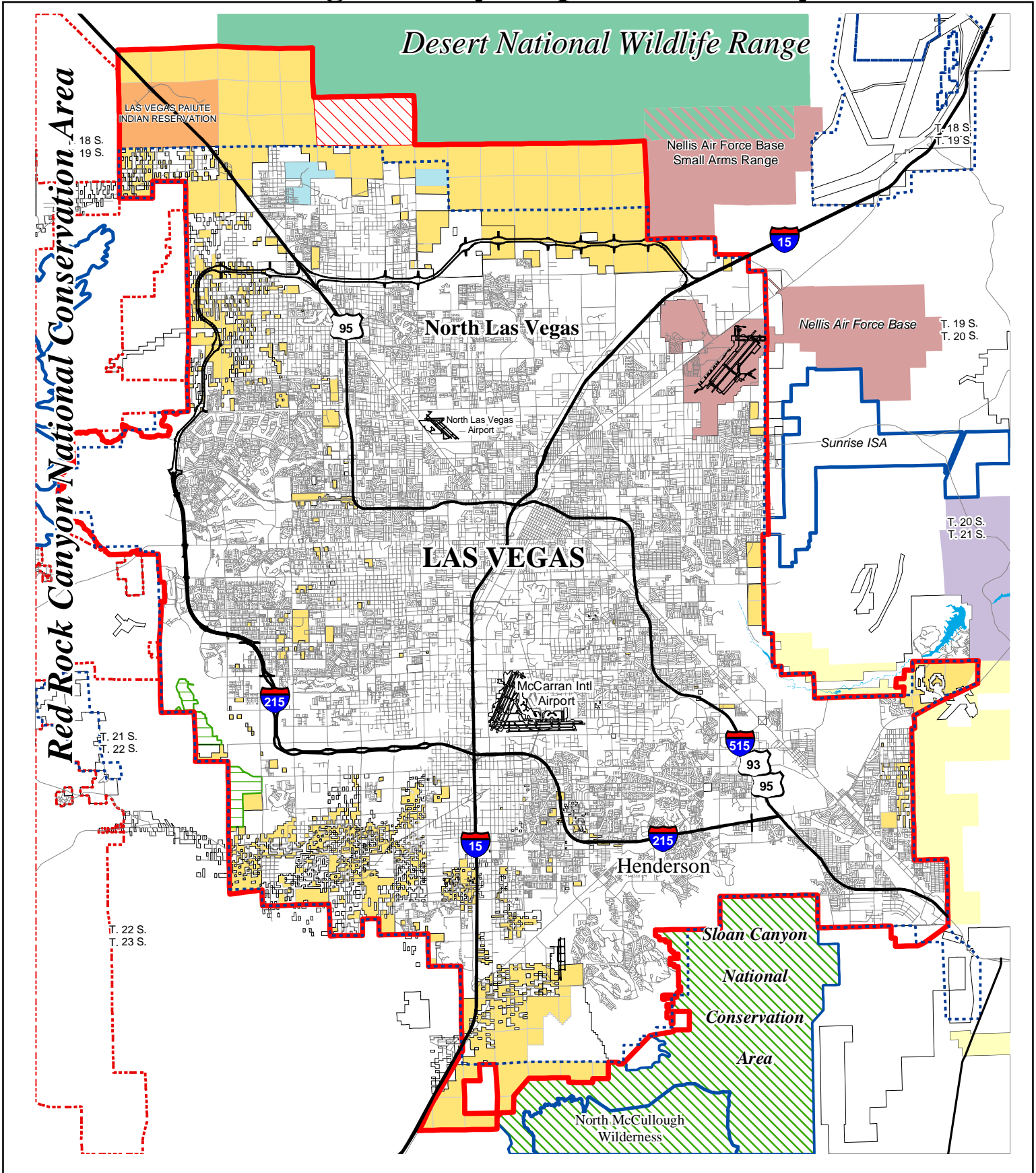


**Las Vegas buckwheat.** The Las Vegas buckwheat, a BLM special status species, is a rare shrub that occurs only from the Las Vegas Valley to the Muddy Mountains in Clark County. It grows on rocky or sandy slopes and sandstone cliffs at elevations between 2,000 and 2,300 feet.

















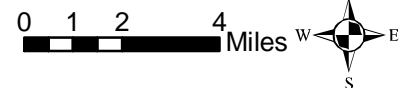
**Twotone Beardtongue.** The twotone beardtongue is a federal species of concern and a BLM special status species. This perennial plant occurs in shallow gravelly washes and on roadsides at elevations ranging from 1,970 to 5,480 feet in Clark County.

# Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary



## Land Status

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  Public Land              |  Nellis Air Force Base        |  Wilderness Areas            |
|  County                   |  Nellis Air Force Range/USFWS |  Proposed Shooting Range     |
|  Indian Reservation       |  Private                      |  1998 Land Disposal Boundary |
|  National Recreation Area |  Bureau of Reclamation        |  2002 Land Disposal Boundary |
|  National Wildlife Refuge |  State of Nevada              |   |





# Briefing and Tour

## Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary

## Environmental Impact Statement



# Overview

- **Purpose for BLM Land Disposal Actions**
- **Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Environmental Impact Statement**
- **Field Surveys and Resources of Concern**



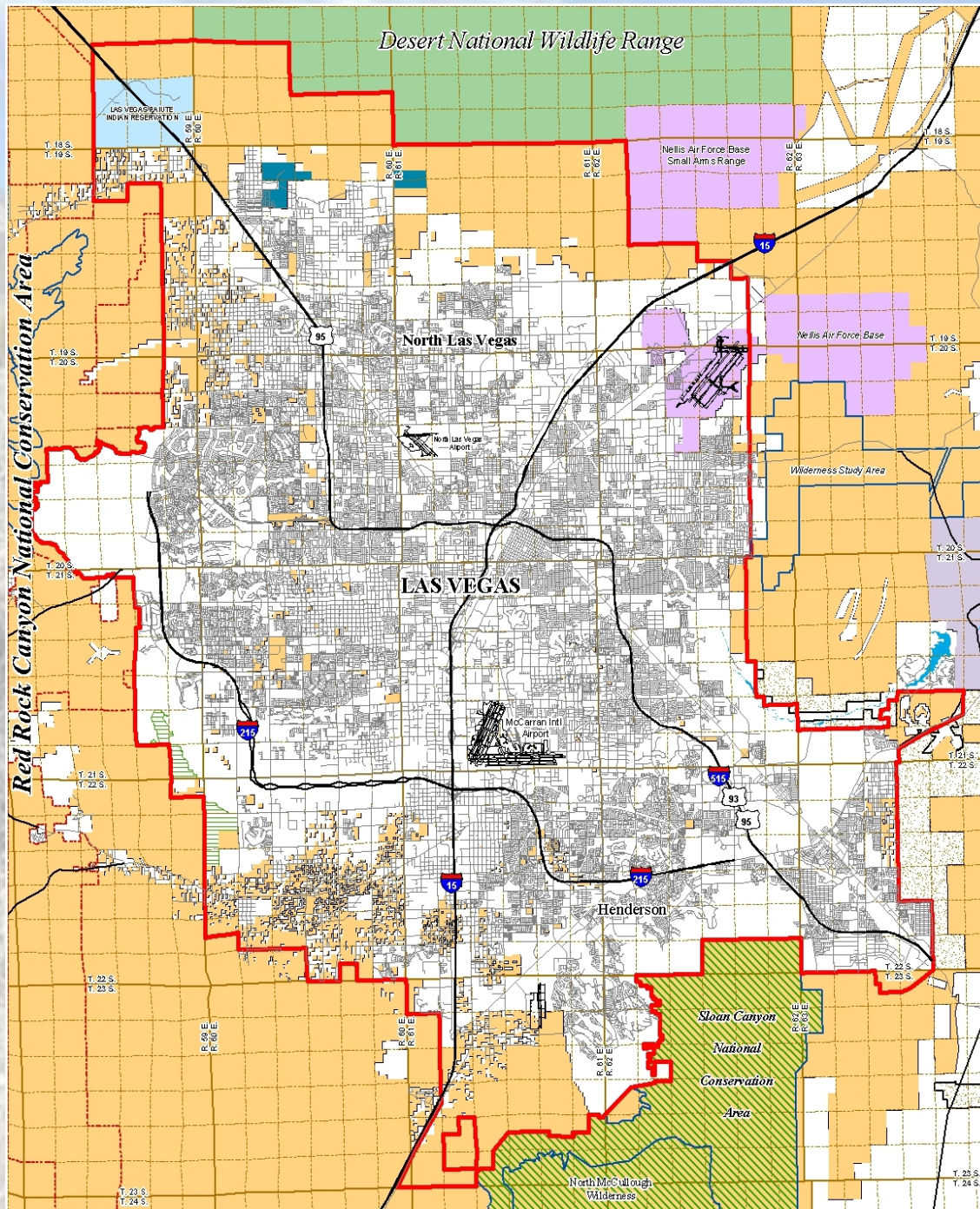


# Legislation

- **Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998**
- **Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002**









# Purpose

- Provide for orderly disposal of BLM managed lands
- Update existing Resource Management Plan analysis for disposal of public lands
- Review community plans to assess development related impacts



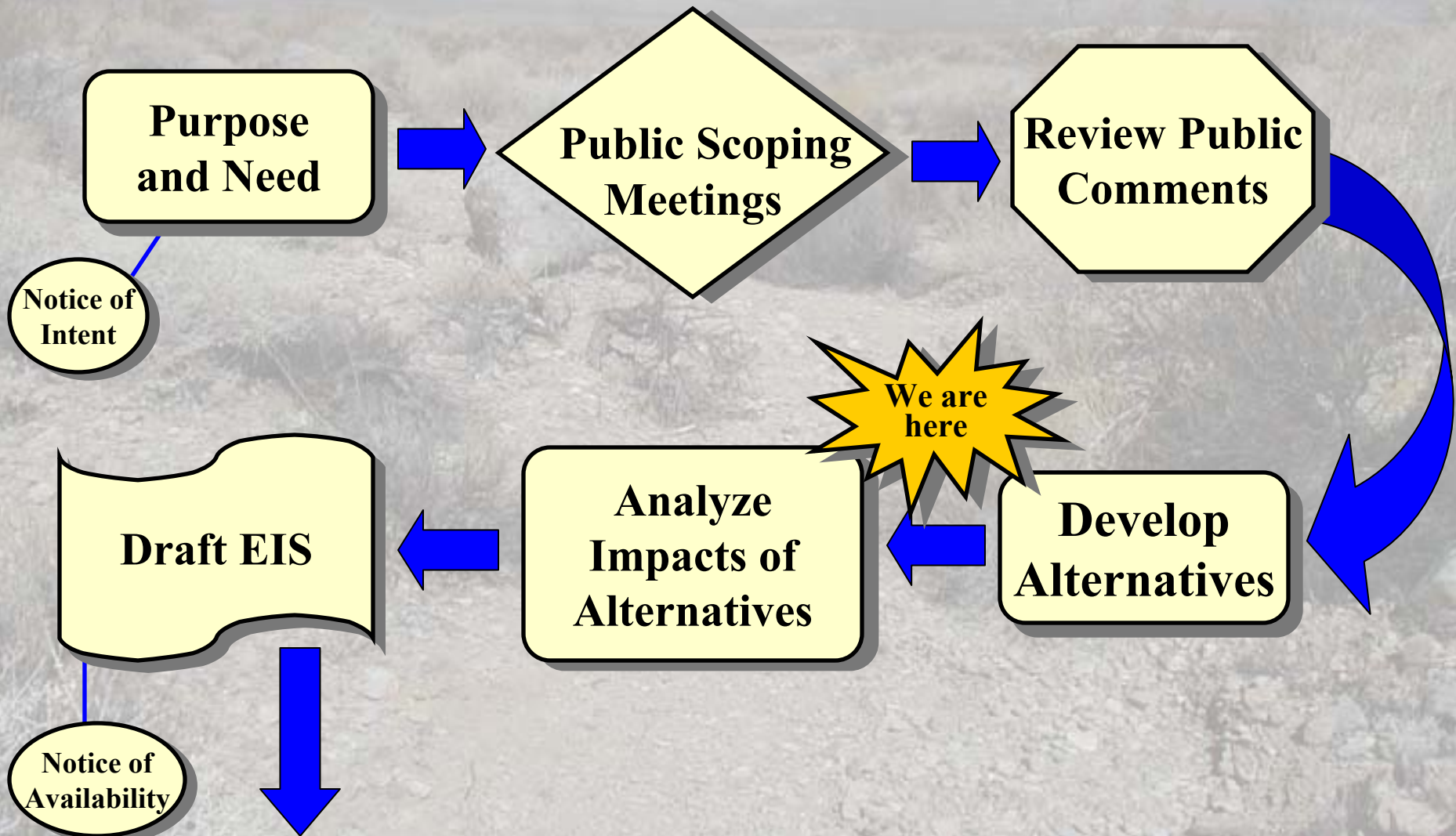
# Purpose (continued)

- **Assess environmental impacts of other BLM land management actions, for example**
  - Recreation & Public Purposes lease
  - Right-of-Way grants
- **Identify cumulative impacts, for example**
  - Air
  - Water

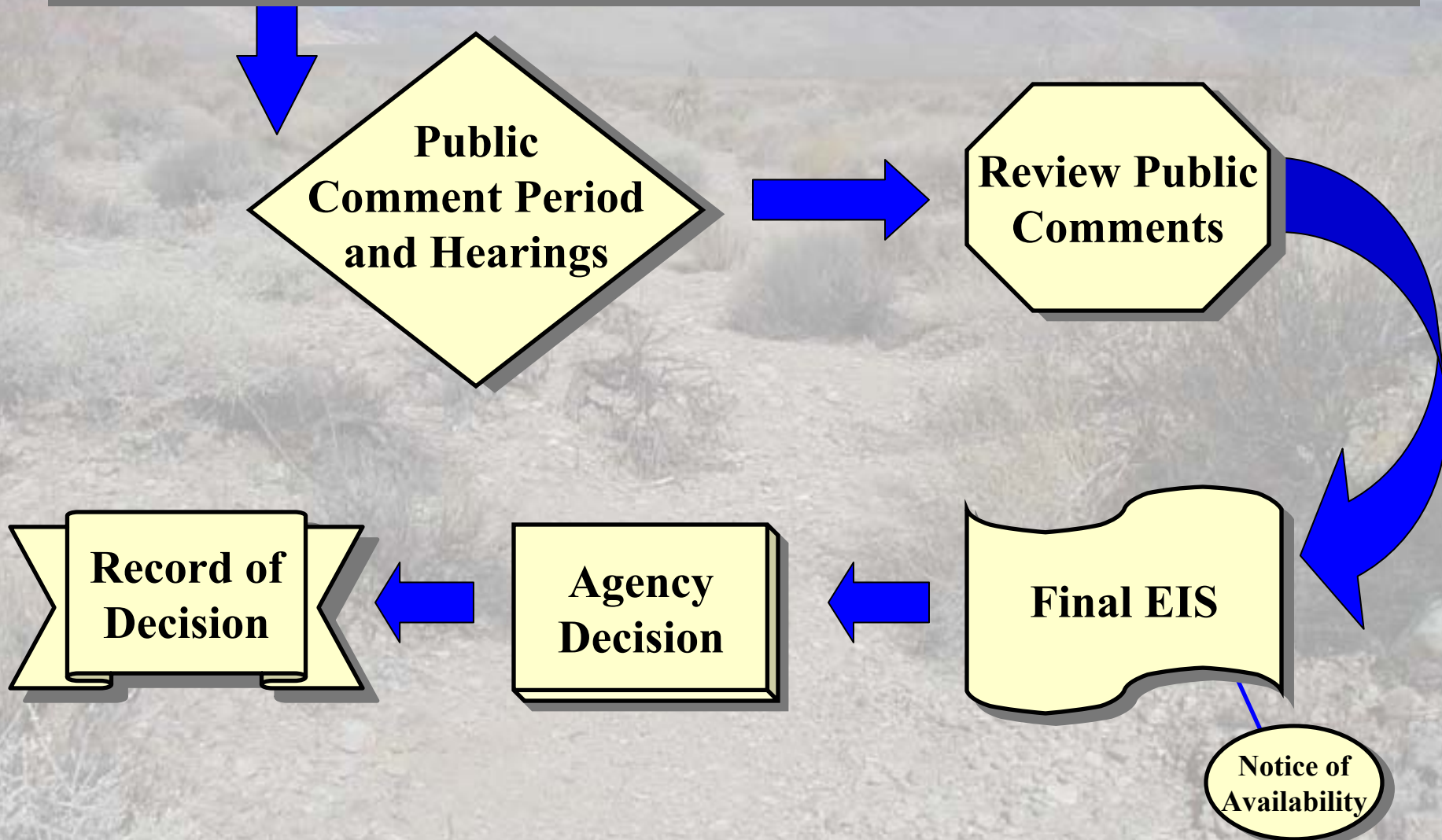




# NEPA Process



# NEPA Process (continued)





# Scoping Comments

- “Land at Tule Springs should not be sold for any type of possible development.”
- “Geologically unique deposits have scientific value and should be set aside.”
- “Address how sales will affect habitat for T&E species.”





# Alternatives

- Auction all available remaining BLM managed parcels in Valley
- Do not auction remaining BLM managed parcels (No Action)
- Identify BLM managed parcels with sensitive resource values worth protecting





# Resources

- Air quality
- Water quality and quantity
- Recreation
- Archaeological sites
- Paleontological sites
- Native American concerns



# Resources (continued)

- Wildlife and plants
- Threatened & endangered species
- Visual characteristics
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice
- Land use





# Paleontological Resources

- Preserved remnants of past life – *fossils*
- Bones, teeth, plant remains, shells, tracks
- Any evidence of past existence





# Paleontological Resources





# Paleontological Resources







# Paleontological Resources



- **Limited Federal legislation**
  - **Federal Land Policy and Management Act**
- **Pending legislation**
  - **Paleontological Resources Preservation Act**
  - **Comprehensive national policy for preserving and managing paleontological resources on Federal lands**
  - **S.546 passed 7/17/03**
  - **H.R.2416 in Subcommittee**





# Paleontological Resources

- Approximately 400 sites located to date
- Las Vegas Formation
- Mammoth tusks, camel tooth fragments, large mammal bones





# Archaeological Resources

- Locations where human activity measurably altered the earth or left deposits of physical or biological remains
- Historic or pre-historic items, places, or events





# Archaeological Resources

- **Specific Federal legislation**
  - **National Historic Preservation Act**
  - **Archaeological Resources Protection Act**
  - **American Antiquities Act**
  - **Federal Land Policy and Management Act**





# Archaeological Resources

- Over 60 sites located to date
- Rock rings, lithic scatters, trails, fragments
- Tule Springs National Register Site





# Biological Resources

- Plants, animals, and habitats
- Threatened species – Desert tortoise
- Special status species





# Biological Resources

- **Specific Federal legislation**
  - **Endangered Species Act**
  - **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**
  - **Federal Land Policy and Management Act**





# Biological Resources

- Approximately 3,700 corrected tortoise sign in northern area – low to moderate density



- Greater densities of Las Vegas buckwheat in northern area





# Next Steps

- Complete field surveys
- Assess “significance” of resource – context and intensity
- Determine if conditions of disposal are appropriate

